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profusion of fruit buds, even more than usual, owing no doubt to the depth to which the soil had become saturated by the unusually heavy rains of winter. We have, therefore, the phenomena of two crops of figs on the same tree, an early and a later, developed at the same time. I may remark that this is not a habit of the fig, as it is of some of the berries in temperate climates, which develop a series of buds and mature a succession of fruits through a considerable period of time. GEORGE E. POST, M.D.

Beirut, *May* 26, 1880.

§ 49. **Aphyllon uniflorum,** T. & G.—My own observations during a number of years, and those of several members of the Club during the present season, seem to prove that, in our district, this parasitic plant grows on the roots of *Solidago*, only. It might not be out of place to request botanists of other sections to have an eye on the plant, in order to settle this question.

A close examination of the points of attachment shows that the suction-organs of *Aphyllon* (very small protuberances along the roots, or what corresponds to roots) consist entirely of parenchymatic tissue; its cells are large and roundish, only those cells that penetrate into the tissue of the foster plant are considerably elongated.

Comandra umbellata, Nutt., I found on blueberries; but as I ascertained this in a few instances only, I will not draw any conclusions. I just mention this plant to state that its suction organs differ widely from those of *Aphyllon*, by having well developed fibro-vascular bundles, the first ducts of which originate quite close to the tip of the organ. This difference, of course, will find its explanation in the different mode of assimilation that goes on in the two plants—the one being a true parasite, while the other has green foliage.

College Point, *June* 7, 1880. JOS. SCHRENK.

§ 50. **Sassafras officinale,** Nees.—I noticed an unusually large sassafras tree standing on a farm near Newton, L. I., its circumference about 1½ or 2 feet from the ground is 8 feet 6 inches. Two inches or so ought, perhaps, to be deducted, for several stems of *Ampelopsis* and *Rhus* climb up the trunk, which is well-formed and of nearly uniform thickness up to the lowest branches, at least 8 feet above the ground. The tree, in reference to height, presents the appearance of a large-sized stately oak; and, when covered all over with its shining yellow blossoms as it first caught my eye, is well worth seeing.

College Point, *June* 15. JOS. SCHRENK.

§ 51. **Teratological Notes.**—Prolification of the inflorescence in various species of *Plantago* seems to be of common occurrence in Europe and curious forms of it are occasionally noted in English periodicals. Dr. Masters, in his Vegetable Teratology, figures some of these and states that each species of this genus seems to have its own perverse mode of growth. Changes of this nature in our native and introduced species of plantains may be common, but accounts of them do not often find their way into print. A friend has specimens of *P. Rugelii* from Bloomfield, N. J., in which the upper part of the spike is branched and some of these branches have secondary branches. The same collector has from Carlstadt, N. J., *Typha latifolia*, in which there are several small spikes arising side by side from the top of the culm, and which appear to be due to fission. During the field meeting of the Club at New Dorp a few weeks ago a large number of specimens of *Plantago lanceolata*, L., were observed, in each of which there were from four to five long, thick sessile spikes terminating the scape. Mr. N. L. Britton detected a specimen of this species of plantain near New Dorp, the single spike of which was subtended by a whorl of leafy bracts. On the same excursion there was found in the woods, between New Dorp and Garretsons, a double-flowered specimen of *Rubus cuneifolius*.

Dr. Gray's note in the *Botanical Gazette* on a three-flowered bloodroot reminds me that a few years ago I found a specimen of dandelion with two well-developed capitula at the apex of the same scape. The scape in this instance was perfectly terete and smooth, and exhibited none of those striae which usually accompany cases of fasciation. The specimen is now in the State herbarium.

Fasciation in the peduncle of *Sophora*, as in the example shown by me at a recent meeting ot the Club, is not (as I am informed by the gentleman who sent the specimen from Texas) uncommon in this plant especially where the tree is in cultivation. It would be interesting to know whether the buds with which the flattened and striated peduncle is profusely covered produce deformed flowers. On several occasions, and in different localities, I have observed an example of fasciation in *Erigeron Canadense*, L., the stem of which was completely flattened and expanded to a width of three quarters of an inch, and terminated abruptly in a dense mass of leaves. This kind of deformity, which occurs so frequently in some plants (as in the cock's-comb for example) that it may be said to almost constitute their natural state, is brought about, according to the views of Dr. Masters and others, by the adhesion of buds that have been produced in some numbers and in close proximity, through superabundant nourishment—especially if this be accompanied by some check or injury.

Many interesting specimens illustrating the subject of Teratology, and many observations in regard thereto, have been brought to the attention of the Club from time to time, but unfortunately no account of them has ever been published. At the December, 1878, meeting Dr. Gross exhibited a case of median floral prolification in a rose, the prolonged axis of which bore a second full-blown flower. In a note to the *Scientific American*, Prof. F. L. Harvey, of Fayetteville, Ark., reports an instance of this nature in which, of two proliferous roses on the same bush, the axis of one bore five perfect flower buds, and that of the other, two. "Proliferous roses," says Dr. Masters, "have a special interest, inasmuch as they show very conclusively that the so-called calyx-tube of these plants is merely a concave and inverted thalamus, which, in prolified specimens, becomes elongated. Occasionally from the middle of the outer surface of the urn-shaped thalamus proceeds a perfect leaf, which could hardly be produced from the united sepals or calyx-tube."

I have specimens of *Centaurea Cyanus*, L., which I obtained from a garden a few years since, and which exhibit this same sort of prolification—the elongated axis bearing a second capitulum very slightly smaller than the primary one. At the same meeting of the Club, Dr. Thurber, after remarking that double flowers are rare in a state of nature, announced that he had recently received from Connecticut, specimens of *Nesaea verticillata*, H. B. K., in which all of the flowers were double; and another member reported that he had observed, during the preceding spring, the same thing in a specimen of *Saxifraga Virginiensis*, Mchx. In the note before alluded to, Prof. Harvey states that he had seen a plant of some species of *Allium* in which a stamen, in a flower otherwise normal, was replaced by a bulblet; and in another flower, one of the stamens was replaced by a perfect flower. He says further: "An ear of corn, which has grown wrong side out, is in my possession. The ear has the form of an inverted truncated cone, bearing the kernels on the walls of the hollow. The cob has a smooth exposed surface, and a texture somewhat more compact than that of the cob of normal ears." This is perhaps a case of eversion of the axis, the termination of the latter becoming hollow through a disproportionate growth of the outer as contrasted with the central parts of the rhachis, and the female flowers and the seeds being borne on the walls of the tube thus formed.

W. R. G.

§ 52. **Publications.**—1. *Preliminary List of the Plants growing without cultivation in Alabama*, from the collections made by Eugene A. Smith, Tuscaloosa, and Charles Mohr, Mobile, compiled by Charles Mohr; 629 genera, ending with *Azolla Caroliniana*, Willd.; containing about 1,600 species and varieties, of which something like half are strangers to our region. We notice that Mr. Smith is the authority for *Asplenium ebenoides*; it would be interesting to know whether he found it in the locality discovered by Miss Tutweiler, or has a new station for this disputed species. This list is preliminary to a complete catalogue of the Flora of Alabama to be published hereafter in one of the Reports of the Geological Survey of the State. Those who have authentic specimens of plants not in the list are invited to communicate them to Messrs. Smith and Mohr.

2. *Forest Trees of North America.*—It is proposed to join to the Report on the Forest Wealth of the United States now in preparation for the Tenth Census, a Catalogue of the Forest Trees of North America, with special reference to their geographical distribution and economic properties and uses. To facilitate the collection and preservation of such information Prof. Chas. S. Sargent, Brookline, Mass., issues this preliminary catalogue, with blank pages for field notes and corrections. Any information which will serve to make the final publication more exact and complete will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged. Almost every botanist has it in his power to contribute something. Information on the following points is particularly needed.

1. The extreme geographical range of any species.
2. The region and elevation where any species is principally multiplied and reaches its greatest perfection.